

REMARKS

Introduction. The Office Action mailed July 7, 2005 (the "Office Action") indicates that claims 30-32 and 34-63 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. There was additionally a claim objection as to claims 44 and 47.

An earnest attempt has been made to put the claims in form for allowance consonant with the Office Action. Specifically, with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Giblin et al. article, the Office Action recognizes that this rejection relates only to one of the seven different formulas (the formula $R_1 - Fff - Aaa - Ggg - Ccc - R_5$) included in prior claim 18. See, e.g., page 3 of the Office Action, numbered paragraph 7; page 5 of the Office Action, paragraph starting: "The rejection based upon..." Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims such that one set of claims (claim 2 as amended) is drawn to the peptides of six of the seven formulas, explicitly deleting the formula $R_1 - Fff - Aaa - Ggg - Ccc - R_5$, and two sets of claims are drawn to peptides of the formula $R_1 - Fff - Aaa - Ggg - Ccc - R_5$ incorporating limitations of dependent claims indicated as allowable. Claim 18 as amended is now an independent claim that includes the limitations of allowable claims 49 and 50 (specific amino acid residues in the position "Fff"), and new claim 70 is an independent claim that includes the limitations of allowable claims 52 and 53 (specific amino acid residues in the position "Ggg"). With these amendments, there are now three sets of independent claims, each of which is asserted to be allowable based upon the Office Action.

No new matter is added by amendment to the claims, with each limitation having been present in the claims previously presented.

Claims Objection. Claims 47 and 44 are objected to based upon informalities (claim 47) and improper form (claim 44) (See Office Action at page 2, numbered paragraphs 3 and 4). The claims are amended to address the objections.

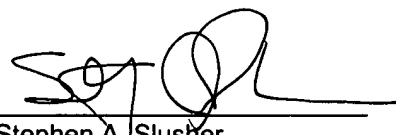
Benefit of Filing Date of Provisional. Without conceding or acquiescing in the position advanced in the Office Action, Applicants believe that the claims as amended are patentable over the only cited reference, Giblin et al., and thus the issue with respect to the benefit of the filing date of the provisional is moot.

Rejection Based on Giblin et al. In paragraph numbered 7 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 2, 18, 26-29, and 33 as being anticipated by Giblin et al. is maintained. As stated in paragraph numbered 7 of the Office Action, Giblin et al. disclose two peptides which it is asserted correspond to Applicants' peptide of the formula $R_1 - Fff - Aaa - Ggg - Ccc - R_5$. In response, Applicants have amended claim 2 to include the limitations of claim 18 but specifically excluding the peptide of the formula $R_1 - Fff - Aaa - Ggg - Ccc - R_5$. There are now two independent claims (amended claim 18 and new claim 70) which claim the peptide of the formula $R_1 - Fff - Aaa - Ggg - Ccc - R_5$ but specifically include limitations of objected to claims 49 and 50 (claim 18) and 52 and 53 (Claim 70). It is asserted that the claims as amended, and the new claims, are not anticipated by Giblin et al.

Conclusion.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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